

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1471
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3541

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, WA, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: VAN HEERDEN DISCUSSED WESTERN JUNE 22 DEMARCHE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOTH'S AIDE, NEIL VAN HEERDEN, TOLD
EMBASSY POLCON JUNE 23, THAT WE COULD EXPECT A REPLY
EARLY NEXT WEEK TO THE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MESSAGE
TO PIK BOTHHA AND THE PRETORIA FIVE'S DEMARCHE OF JUNE 22.
THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL DISCUSS THE ISSUE TODAY WITH
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.

2. VAN HEERDEN SAID MOST TROUBLESOME WAS THE WESTERN
INTENTION REGARDING WALVIS BAY. HE REITERATED THAT THE
PRIME MINISTER WAS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE ISSUE AND
WOULD REACT STRONGLY AND DECISIVELY TO ANY WESTERN POSITION
WHICH REFLECTED ON SOUTH AFRICA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER WALVIS
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BAY. VAN HEERDEN SAID THE SAG HAD ACCEPTED THE
APPROACH THE WESTERN FIVE HAD INDICATED LAST FEBRUARY
THEY WOULD USE. HE ADDED THE SAG HAD BEEN RECEIVING
SIGNALS THAT IT WAS IN DANGER OF BEING SURPRISED ON THE
ISSUE.

3. THE POLCON ASSURED VAN HEERDEN THAT THE POSITION

BEING CONSIDERED BY THE WESTERN FIVE WOULD BE OUTSIDE OF THE PROPOSAL AND WOULD NOT PREJUDICE SOUTH AFRICA'S LEGAL CLAIMS. IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF TAKING THE VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY IS PRESENTLY AN INTEGRAL PART OF NAMIBIA BUT RATHER BEING GUIDED BY THE BELIEF THAT IT ULTIMATELY SHOULD BE.

4. VAN HEERDEN REPLIED THAT FOURIE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE WESTERN POSITION BUT THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFULLY STATED. HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THE SAG IN "HAMMERING OUT" ANY STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN POSITION. POLCON MADE NO COMMENT.

EDMONDSON

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